

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 12, 13, 17 and 18 are pending in the above application. By the above amendment, claims 14-16 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In the Office Action dated December 18, 2006, it was indicated that claims 2-7, 12, 13, 17 and 18 were allowed. Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramatsu in view of Uchiyama, and claim 15 was objected to.

By the above amendment, claims 14-16 have been cancelled. Only claims indicated to be allowed remain in this application, and the allowance of this application is therefore earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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